

A2 c) a polypeptide which is encoded by a nucleic acid molecule comprising a nucleotide sequence which is at least 83% identical to a nucleic acid comprising the nucleotide sequence of [SEQ ID NO:1, 3, 4, 6, 7, 9, 10, or 12] SEQ ID NO:4 or 6; and

d) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence which is at least 87% identical to the amino acid sequence of [SEQ ID NO:2, 5, 8, or 11] SEQ ID NO:5.

11. (Amended) The isolated polypeptide of claim 10 comprising the amino acid sequence of [SEQ ID NO:2, 5, 8, or 11] SEQ ID NO:5.

21. (Amended) The method of claim 20, wherein the binding of the test compound to the polypeptide is detected by a method selected from the group consisting of:

- A3
- a) detection of binding by direct detection of test compound/polypeptide binding;
 - b) detection of binding using a competition binding assay; and
 - c) detection of binding using an assay for [hVR-1,] hVR-2[, or rVR-2] activity.

24. (Amended) A method for treating a subject having a disorder characterized by aberrant [hVR-1 or] hVR-2 protein activity or nucleic acid expression comprising administering to the subject a [hVR-1 or] hVR-2 modulator such that treatment of the subject occurs.

25. (Amended) The method of claim 24, wherein the [hVR-1 or] hVR-2 modulator is a small molecule.

REMARKS

Claims 1-26 were pending in the present application. Claims 1-4, 10, 11, 21, 24, and 25 have been amended. Accordingly, claims 1-26 are currently pending. For the Examiner's convenience the currently pending claims are set forth in Appendix A.

No new matter has been added. Any amendments to and/or cancellation of the claims should in no way be construed as an acquiescence to any of the Examiner's rejections and was done solely to expedite the prosecution of the application. Applicant reserves the right to pursue the claims as originally filed in this or a separate application(s).

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth above, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. If there are any remaining issues or the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation with Applicant's Agent would be helpful in expediting prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned at (617) 227-7400.

Respectfully submitted,
LAHIVE & COCKFIELD, LLP

Manuscript

Maria C. Laccotripe, Ph.D.

Agent for Applicant

Limited Recognition Under 37 C.F.R. §10.9(b)

28 State Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02109
telephone: (617) 227-7400
facsimile: (617) 742-4214
Date: June 2, 2000

[illegible]